

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO LIVIU LIBRESCU

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I rise today to mourn the passing of Liviu Librescu, a world renowned professor of aeronautical engineering who was tragically gunned down while saving the lives of his students at Virginia Tech this week.

Madam Speaker, I am compelled to honor Mr. Librescu, not because he is a fellow Holocaust survivor and college professor who persevered and overcame so much, but because he was a human being so extraordinary that his life's journey embodies the word hero.

Liviu Librescu was born in 1930 to a Jewish family in Ploiesti, Romania. During World War II, when Romania joined forces with Nazi Germany, he was imprisoned in a forced labor camp. Subsequently he was sent, along with his family and thousands of others, to a ghetto in the city of Focsani about 100 miles from his home. Hundreds of thousands of Jews from across Romania died in the Focsani Ghetto and in Transnistria, a Romanian-run Nazi killing field where Librescu's father, a lawyer, perished.

Liviu survived the horrors of the Focsani Ghetto and the Holocaust and nobly committed his life to academia, studying aerospace engineering at the Polytechnic University of Bucharest, where he received both his undergraduate degree in 1952 and his Masters in 1953. In 1969 he received his Ph.D. in fluid Mechanics from Academia de Stiinte din Romania.

Madam Speaker, Liviu Librescu was a brilliant mind and quickly established himself as a top researcher at the Bucharest Institute of Applied Mechanics and the Academy of Science of Romania. But his refusal to swear allegiance to the destructive Communist regime in Romania ultimately left him jobless. Without means to support his wife, Marlene, and two sons, Joe and Arie, Librescu tried to leave Romania for Israel. But under the Romanian communist regime Jews were not allowed to emigrate. In 1978 the Romanian government finally permitted Liviu to leave, but only after a direct request was made by the Prime Minister of Israel—Menachem Begin—to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

From 1979 to 1986 Librescu was a Professor of Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering at Tel-Aviv University and Haifa's Technion. In 1985 he took sabbatical from Tel Aviv University to research and teach at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. He quickly became a vital part of the School of Engineering Science and Mechanics, and in 1986 decided to make Blacksburg and Virginia Tech his full-time home.

Professor Librescu had a distinguished career as one of Virginia Tech's premier lecturers; he published hundreds of prestigious

papers, received numerous awards and honorary degrees and did extensive research for NASA.

Madam Speaker, these extraordinary accomplishments in the face of such tribulations made Liviu Librescu a hero to those who knew him. But his actions on the morning of April 16, 2007 shine through as beacon of everything that embodies his heroic spirit. On that frightful morning when a deranged gunman chose Librescu's classroom as a target for his heinous, senseless murdering spree, Liviu Librescu barricaded himself against the classroom door in an attempt to lock the gunman out. He told his students to flee while he threw his body against the door. Librescu was fatally shot, but the gunman never managed to gain access and no student in the classroom was harmed.

Madam Speaker, I do not think the English language has words worthy enough to describe the selfless courage and boundless humanity of Liviu Librescu. The world has suffered a tragic loss with the end of this one life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Liviu Librescu, which lives on in the people that he saved and in the hearts he inspired worldwide.

IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY
2007

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Earth Day, which we will celebrate April 22, 2007. On the very first Earth Day in 1970, 20 million Americans stood together for the environment. They filled our country's streets, parks, and auditoriums to announce their dedication to protecting the earth, and they asked their government to stand with them.

What began 37 years ago as a grassroots movement in the United States has now spread to 175 countries, and is observed each year by 500 million people worldwide. The importance of Earth Day is underscored by the threat of global climate change. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded with near certainty this February, people are a large part of the problem, but we are also capable of coming up with solutions.

I am proud that the new House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming met this week for the first time. I commend the Speaker for making this issue a priority, and I commend the new panel's members for their efforts in moving us towards solutions to the problem of global climate change.

The City of Chicago is leading the way in transitioning to a "green-friendly" world and is now a model for other cities across the country. Chicago is among the largest users of green energy in the country, and the city has

set a goal of using renewable energy for roughly a quarter of city operations.

As part of the process, Chicago has attracted two solar panel manufacturers to the city. Additionally, Chicago has planted or negotiated the construction of over 2 million square feet of rooftop gardens, more than all other U.S. cities combined.

Madam Speaker, I recognize that as a member of Congress and a father, we have a duty to preserve our Nation's environmental treasures for generations to come. This Earth Day, I hope that we can build on the momentum of my hometown and work together to improve the outlook for our planet and make this a better place for our children. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this Earth Day, and many more to come.

HONORING MARINE CORPS FIRST
LIEUTENANT SHAUN BLUE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I wish to commend United States Marine Corps 1LT Shaun Blue for his bravery in the field of battle and his willingness to fight for his country. First Lieutenant Blue was killed in action during combat operations near Iraq's Anbar province on April 16, 2007. His sacrifice will be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A lifelong resident of Munster, Indiana, Shaun is remembered by his community as an intelligent, determined, and trustworthy leader. As a young boy, Shaun was active in the Boy Scouts, and it was at this time that his commitment and leadership abilities began to emerge. At Munster High School, Shaun was an accomplished student, graduating in the top 10 in his class and named a National Merit Scholar. As an athlete, Shaun participated on the cross-country and track and field teams, where his drive and dedication served as an example to his teammates and a source of pride for his school.

Following his graduation from Munster High School in 2000, Shaun went on to attend the University of Southern California, where he majored in philosophy. Shaun completed the ROTC program at USC with the intention of going on to serve as a leader for yet another group of his peers as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Having been on his second tour in Iraq, Shaun was fully committed to serving his country, and those with whom he served had the utmost respect and unwavering faith in his abilities. This respect was also shared by his superiors, as is evidenced by the numerous medals he was awarded, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Shaun is remembered by friends as being a calm, thoughtful person, who was always willing to help others. An avid fisherman and hunter, Shaun was the type that loved to go camping, and he enjoyed all the wonders nature had to offer. Shaun's qualities demonstrated throughout his youth made him an ideal member of the United States Marine Corps. Shaun was a leader who consistently exemplified strength, not only physically, but mentally and morally as well, and he will continue to serve as an inspiration and example to those who knew him.

First Lieutenant Blue leaves behind a loving family. Shaun leaves to cherish his memory his adoring parents, Jim and Debbie Blue, and countless other friends and family members who will never forget the impact he had on their lives. Shaun will be greatly missed by a saddened but proud community and a grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Marine Corps 1LT Shaun Blue. First Lieutenant Blue is an inspiration to us all for his patriotism and willingness to fight for his country. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for the betterment of his country and the world, and his passing comes as a setback to the northwest Indiana community, which has already been shaken by the realities of war. First Lieutenant Blue will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO THE CASSADAGA
VALLEY GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Cassadaga Valley girls and boys basketball teams. Both teams played with distinction this season, meeting various challenges and contributing with their talents both as a team and individually.

I would like to acknowledge girl's team players Casey Mathers, most improved player; Kari Barmore, co-most valuable player and rebounding award and scholar-athlete award winner; Jenna Beichner, co-most valuable player; and Jennifer Zanghi, receiving the defensive award.

I must also acknowledge boy's team players Kevin Watson, earning the distinction of most valuable player and Bob Zanghi earning the most improved player and scholar-athlete awards.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the great successes of both of these teams, both acknowledged by the NYSPHSAA as deserving of the Scholar-Athlete Team Award. It is a pleasure to honor this fine young athletes here today.

INTRODUCTION OF BRISTOL BAY
PROTECTION ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Natural Resources Committee to take action on the bipartisan Bristol Bay Protection Act, which I introduced today with my colleagues, Congressman WAYNE GILCHREST and Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY.

The Bristol Bay Protection Act will renew long-standing, bipartisan protection for this economically, culturally, and ecologically important marine ecosystem through a Congressional prohibition on oil and gas development in the waters of Alaska's North Aleutian Basin.

When Congress returns from the district work period we plan to introduce the Bristol Bay Protection Act. The Exxon Valdez oil tanker spill, which fouled more than 1,200 miles of pristine Alaskan shoreline and caused billions of dollars in economic damage, moved the Congress and President George H. Bush to place the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area (which includes Bristol Bay) under moratoria from oil and gas development in 1990. In 1998, President Clinton later followed up with an extension of this moratorium on pre-leasing and leasing activities in the same waters until 2012.

This past January, President Bush removed the long-standing executive ban on offshore drilling in Bristol Bay, opening the way for leases the Federal Minerals Management Service (MMS) has proposed in 2010 and 2012.

Alaska's Bristol Bay and the southeastern Bering Sea encompass one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world. These sub-arctic waters support important commercial fisheries, representing more than 40 percent of the Nation's annual seafood catch. The area targeted for oil and gas leasing overlaps with important habitat and fishing grounds for pollock, cod, red king crab, halibut and salmon—fisheries which generate more than \$2 billion dollars annually. These fisheries support fishermen and fishing families throughout Alaska and the Pacific northwest.

Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs, the largest on earth, are the lifeblood of many remote, Native villages in southwestern Alaska. Subsistence and commercial harvest of salmon resources are the economic mainstay of these culturally-unique communities.

The region's coastal wetlands, lagoons and sheltered bays serve as migratory hubs, staging areas and wintering grounds for millions of waterfowl and shorebirds. The southeastern Bering Sea is also home to a number of marine mammal species—many of which are threatened or endangered—including sea otters, Steller sea lions, fur seals, humpback whales and the North Pacific right whale. As a testament to the region's ecological importance, five National Wildlife Refuges and eight Alaska state protected areas have been established here.

The U.S. cannot drill our way to energy security. The risks posed by offshore oil and gas development to the renewable resources of Bristol Bay and the thousands of people in Alaska and along the west coast whose livelihoods depend upon their continued health are simply too great.

The bipartisan Bristol Bay Protection Act restores protections to the people, wildlife and habitats in the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area. It is my hope that the Committee acts swiftly to protect this pristine area.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GEORGE
FILIOS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend George Filios for his personal and professional successes, he is truly the embodiment of the American Dream.

George came to the United States from Greece in December 1955 and began working in the textile mills in Lowell, Massachusetts. In 1957, he began work in the construction industry as a painter and carpenter and attended school in the evening to learn English and the Principles of Construction. In 1958 George, in partnership with George Papageorge, founded G & G Construction Company. George took the Oath of Citizenship in May, 1961 and subsequently moved to California. George returned to his native Greece in 1966 where he met his lovely wife, Nitsa Statara.

George established the Filios Construction Company in 1967, specializing in the construction of apartment complexes and subsequently teamed up with Alex Spanos. Following the birth of his first child, Spiridon Filios in 1968, George was offered a management position within A.G. Spanos Companies, thus began a fruitful relationship spanning over thirty years. Soon thereafter, in 1970, George's daughter, Vayia Filios was born. The Filios family relocated to Southern Nevada in 1975 recognizing the booming economy of the region and opportunities it presented to the buildings and construction trades.

In addition to his professional success, George has also contributed greatly to his community. Following the family's move to southern Nevada, George became very much involved with the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. He was intimately involved in long range planning of building Church facilities and in 1978, during his Presidency of the Parish Council, they acquired the land necessary to construct a new Church and community center. George was also very involved with the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where he served as the Administrator of the A.G. Spanos Companies Faculty Award. Furthermore, George has served on the State Contractors Board, from 1981-1984, and as a member of the Clark County Commission Multifamily Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend George Filios. His success in business and philanthropic pursuits is truly commendable and his dedication to the community should serve as an example to us all. Through hard work and determination he has succeeded, thereby truly personifying the American Dream. I thank him for his service to the community and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING FORMER MINNESOTA
GOVERNOR HAROLD E. STASSEN

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, April 13, 2007, marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of former Minnesota Governor Harold E. Stassen.

I rise to pay tribute to the life of this remarkable Minnesotan and true patriot, who dedicated his life to serving our country.

Born on a farm in West St. Paul, Minnesota, Harold Stassen graduated from law school and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the ROTC by the age of 21. At just 22, he was elected Dakota County attorney, a position he held for 9 years.

In 1938, Harold Stassen was elected Governor of Minnesota, taking office at the age of 31. He was the youngest person ever elected governor of any state, a distinction that lasts to this day. During his tenure, Harold Stassen was a visionary and creative leader.

In his 1942 campaign for reelection, Governor Stassen said that if he was reelected, he would resign after the legislative session to join the U.S. Navy, saying, "Our boys are fighting for the right of freedom, and I want to be with them."

As promised, following the 1943 legislative session he resigned as governor and joined the U.S. Navy on the Battleship USS *Missouri* in the Third Pacific Fleet. He was awarded three battle stars, led the Navy's POW evacuation program in Japan and was on duty on the main deck of the *Missouri* when the message came that the Japanese had surrendered. In fact, he entered the receipt of that historic message in the USS *Missouri's* log book.

In February of 1945, President Roosevelt named Harold Stassen as one of eight members of the American delegation to the Founding Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco, where he was later named one of the two most influential people in drafting the United Nations Charter.

Stassen later played a key role in convincing Dwight D. Eisenhower to run for the Republican nomination for President. Upon his election, Eisenhower appointed Stassen Director of Mutual Security, which carried a Cabinet rank and included all foreign operations, foreign aid, relief, military and assistance programs, distribution of arms and technical and educational assistance.

As a member of President Eisenhower's Cabinet, Stassen was also active in implementing the 1955 Geneva Summit, for which he drafted the Arms Limitation and "Open Skies" proposals initiated by GEN James Doolittle and presented by President Eisenhower at the summit. Having experienced first-hand the horror of war, Stassen spent the remainder of his political and public life working for world peace.

Harold E. Stassen dedicated his life to serving our country, both in the armed forces and as a public servant and elected official. The country is grateful for his meritorious contribution to the security and national interests of the United States and his long legacy of public service. He died 40 days short of turning 95, on March 4, 2002.

DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT, CHAIR
AND PRESIDENT EMERITA, NA-
TIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO
WOMEN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a national treasure and American icon on the occasion of her 95th birthday. I am speaking, of course, of the incomparable, irrepresible, and legendary Dorothy Irene Height. For more than half a century, Dorothy Irene Height has played a leading role in the never ending struggle for equality and human rights here at home and around the world. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision of a better world.

Dorothy Height was born in Richmond, VA, on March 24, 1912, and educated in the public schools of Rankin, PA, a borough of Pittsburgh, where her family moved when she was four. She established herself early as a dedicated student with exceptional oratorical skills. After winning a \$1,000 scholarship in a national oratorical contest on the United States Constitution, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of the Elks, and compiling a distinguished academic record, she enrolled in New York University where she earned both her bachelor and master's degrees in just 4 years. She continued her postgraduate studies at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work.

In 1933, Dorothy Height joined the United Christian Youth Movement of North America where her leadership qualities earned her the trust and confidence of her peers. It was during this period that she began to emerge as an effective civil rights advocate as she worked to prevent lynching, desegregate the armed forces, reform the criminal justice system, and provide free access to public accommodations. In 1935, Dorothy Height was appointed by New York government officials to deal with the aftermath of the Harlem riot of 1935.

As Vice President of the United Christian Youth Movement of North America, Dorothy Height was one of only ten American youth delegates to the 1937 World Conference on Life and Work of the Churches held in Oxford, England. Two years later she was selected to represent the YWCA at the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland.

It was in 1937, while serving as Assistant Executive Director of the Harlem YWCA, that Dorothy Height met Mary McLeod Bethune, founder and president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). Mrs. Bethune was immediately impressed with young Dorothy Height's poise and intelligence and invited her to join the NCNW and assist in the quest for women's rights to full and equal employment, pay and education.

In 1938, Dorothy Height was one of ten young Americans invited by Eleanor Roosevelt to Hyde Park, NY, to help plan and prepare for the World Youth Conference to be held at Vassar College.

For the next several years, Dorothy Height served in a dual role: as a YWCA staff member and NCNW volunteer, integrating her training as a social worker and her commitment to

rise above the limitations of race and sex. She rose quickly through the ranks of the YWCA, from working at the Emma Ransom House in Harlem to the Executive Directorship of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA in Washington, DC, to the YWCA National Headquarters office.

For 33 years, from 1944 through 1977, Dorothy Height served on the staff of the National Board of the YWCA and held several leadership positions in public affairs and leadership training and as Director of the National YWCA School for Professional Workers. In 1965, she was named Director of the Center for Racial Justice, a position she held until her retirement.

In 1952, Dorothy Height lived in India, where she worked as a visiting professor in the Delhi School of Social Work at the University of Delhi, which was founded by the YWCAs of India, Burma and Ceylon. She would become renowned for her internationalism and humanitarianism. She traveled around the world expanding the work of the YWCA. She conducted a well-received study of the training of women's organizations in five African countries: Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria under the Committee of Correspondence.

Dorothy Height loved and led her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. She was elected National President of the sorority in 1947 and served in that capacity until 1956. She led the sorority to a new level of organizational development, initiation eligibility, and social action throughout her term. Her leadership training skills, social work background and knowledge of volunteerism benefited the sorority as it moved into a new era of activism on the national and international scene.

In 1957, Dorothy Height was elected the fourth National President of NCNW and served in that position for 40 years, when she became Chair of the Board and President Emerita.

In 1960, Dorothy Height was the woman team member leader in the United Civil Rights Leadership along with Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney H. Young, A. Philip Randolph, James Farmer, Roy Wilkins and John Lewis. In 1961, while Dorothy Height was participating in major Civil Rights leadership, she led NCNW to deal with unmet needs among women and their families to combat hunger, develop cooperative pig banks, and provided families with community freezers and showers.

In 1964, after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Dorothy Height with Polly Cowan, an NCNW Board Member, organized teams of women of different races and faiths as "Wednesdays in Mississippi" to assist in the freedom schools and open communication between women of different races. The workshops which followed stressed the need for decent housing which became the basis for NCNW in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop Turnkey III Home Ownership for low-income families in Gulfport, MS.

In 1970, Dorothy Height directed the series of activities culminating in the YWCA Convention adopting as its "One Imperative" to the elimination of racism. That same year she also established the Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement in New York City to prepare women for entry-level jobs. This experience led her in 1975 to collaborate with Pace College to establish a course of study leading to the Associate Degree for Professional Studies (AAPS).

In 1975, Dorothy Height participated in the Tribunal at the International Women's Year Conference of the United Nations in Mexico City. As a result of this experience, NCNW was awarded a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to hold a conference within the conference for women from the United States, African countries, South America, Mexico and the Caribbean. This was followed with a site visit with 50 of the women to visit with rural women in Mississippi. Under the auspices of the USAID, Dorothy Height lectured in South Africa after addressing the National Convention of the Black Women's Federation of South Africa near Johannesburg (1977). Since 1986, she has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Black family.

Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Dorothy Height: NCNW achieved tax-exempt status in 1966; NCNW dedicated the statue of Mary McLeod Bethune in Lincoln Park, Washington DC in 1974—the first woman to be so honored on public land in the Nation's Capital; developed model national and community-based programs ranging from teenage parenting to pig "banks"—which addressed hunger in rural areas; established the Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women, the first institution devoted to black women's history; established the Bethune Council House as a national historic site; transformed NCNW into an issue-oriented political organization, sponsoring "Wednesdays in Mississippi" when interracial groups of women would help out at Freedom Schools organizing voter registration drives in the South and fostering communications between black and white women; and established the Black Family Reunion Celebration in 1986 to reinforce the historic strengths and traditional values of the black family.

Among the major awards bestowed upon Dorothy Irene Height in gratitude and appreciation for her service to our Nation and the world are the following: Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by President Bill Clinton; Congressional Gold Medal presented by President George W. Bush; John F. Kennedy Memorial Award; NAACP—Spingarn Medal; Hadassah Myrtle Wreath of Achievement; Ministerial Interfaith Association Award; Ladies Home Journal—Woman of the Year; Congressional Black Caucus—Decades of Service; President Ronald Reagan—Citizens Medal; Franklin Roosevelt—Freedom Medal; Essence Award; and the Camille Cosby World of Children Award.

Dorothy Height was also elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame and is the recipient of 36 honorary degrees from colleges and universities as diverse as: Tuskegee University, Harvard University, Spelman College, Princeton University, Bennett College, Pace University, Lincoln University, Columbia University, Howard University, New York University, Morehouse College, and Meharry Medical College.

Madam Speaker, Dorothy Height has witnessed or participated in virtually every major movement for social and political change in the last century. For nearly 75 years, Dorothy Height has fought for the equality and human rights of all people. She was the only female member of the "Big 6" civil rights leaders (Whitney Young, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, and Roy Wilkins). Her vision and dedication made

NCNW the premier organization in advocating for the health, education and economic empowerment for all women of African descent around the world.

Thank you, Dorothy Height, for your service to our Nation. You have made America a better place for all persons of all races, religions, and backgrounds. You have mentored hundreds, been a role model to thousands, and a hero to millions. You are an American original. I am glad to count you as a friend.

HONORING FRANK KRUESI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of my friend, Frank Kruesi. After 9 years of dedicated service, Kruesi is retiring as President of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA).

Prior to his service at the CTA, Mr. Kruesi served as Chief Policy Officer for the City of Chicago for Mayor Richard M. Daley. He also served as the Executive Officer of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and was the legislative assistant to then-Senator Richard M. Daley in the Illinois General Assembly, where he focused on mental disabilities, human services, and juvenile justice legislative initiatives.

Mr. Kruesi's more than 30 years of public service have included service at every level of government including serving as Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the United States Department of Transportation under President Clinton. In that post, he advised two Secretaries of Transportation and developed policy initiatives in all forms of transportation.

Throughout his career, Frank Kruesi has overseen numerous achievements met by the CTA. Under Mr. Kruesi's leadership, CTA has made service improvements on two-thirds of its bus routes and on all, its rail routes. A total of 281 bus of service improvements have been implemented which include 25 new bus routes, expanded hours of service, added trips to reduce wait time, and route changes to improve access and connectivity.

Innovative programs such as U-Pass, a program of discounted passes for college students, have also been implemented during Mr. Kruesi's tenure. The program is the largest of its kind in the Nation, with 76,000 students at 33 area colleges participating.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate Frank Kruesi on his long career and thank him for his service to the City of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR NATION'S NURSES

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's nurses during

National Nurse Recognition Week. From Florence Nightingale, to Clara Barton, to the unsung heroes of today, the nurses of this country have provided invaluable service in times of peace and of war. Providing comfort to the elderly, the sick, and the dying is a, noble yet all too often thankless task. It is for this reason that we take this week in May to honor the extraordinary contributions of nurses to society.

On March 30, 1981 President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest outside the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. He was then rushed to the George Washington University Hospital. When recounting his experience, President Reagan often spoke of a nurse who held his hand as he was taken into surgery. This simple act by an unknown woman comforted the President during his time of pain and fear. Almost a year later, President Reagan proclaimed that National Recognition Day for Nurses would be observed on May 6. Since then, the recognition has been expanded to a weeklong celebration.

With over 2.7 million registered nurses in this country, nursing is the largest health care profession. These men and women administer care, with profound compassion, in homes, hospitals, and schools across the nation. The theme of this year's National Nurses Week is, fittingly, "Nursing . . . profession and a passion." When Americans fall ill, it is the nurse who tends to their daily needs and provides comfort in times of uncertainty and pain. I want to take this opportunity to thank our nation's nurses for their commitment to the service of others.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH KEANE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dear friend Joseph "Joey" Keane, a man who inspired countless people in my hometown of South Buffalo through his example, strength of character, and spirit.

Joey Keane's life was filled with many blessings. He was blessed with an extraordinary family; his parents Richard and Catherine Keane embraced him with love and care as they did all of their children, his 15 siblings, 7 sisters and 8 brothers, enriched his life with love, laughter, and respect, and the Seneca Street neighborhood that was his home and the place where he was beloved by neighbors, family friends, and business owners alike.

The Keanes are a politically prominent family in Buffalo, NY. Joey's brothers Dick & Jim were elected to public office, his brother Neil served as Fire Commissioner but many would argue that Joey was the best politician of them all.

His brother Jim explained Joey and the impact he has had on others best when he said, "Joey's taught us a lot of lessons, and he's taught us the lighter side of life. I think Joey has made it easier for all of us to laugh at ourselves. That's part of the Joey Keane mystique. You learn humility and how to laugh at yourself from the Joey Keanes of the world."

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the entire Keane

Family for the loss of their dear brother and with the House's consent, I would like to end my remarks with a recent article that was printed in The Buffalo News which commemorates the life of Joey Keane.

MAYOR OF SENECA STREET DIES AT 60—JOEY KEANE WAS "TRUE POLITICIAN" OF THE CLAN
(By Gene Warner)

Six years ago, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bishop Henry J. Mansell attended a Labor Day Mass in South Buffalo, where Clinton seemed to be grabbing the most attention.

Joey Keane—of the prominent South Buffalo Keane clan—spotted Mansell, who was standing alone, drinking a cup of coffee and perhaps feeling a little ignored by the Clinton spotlight.

"Hello, Bishop, I'm Joey Keane," he said. "If you put that cup of coffee down, I'll take my picture with you."

That was Joey Keane, one of the best known of the famous Keanes, a man intimidated by no one, a South Buffalo man who always had a hug or a quip for everyone—whether it was the governor, the bishop or just a man or woman on the street.

Dubbed the "mayor of Seneca Street," Keane died Friday in the Mercy Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility, following an almost two-year battle with Alzheimer's and its complications. He was 60.

When he was born, in February 1947, family members were told that infants with Down syndrome had a life expectancy of about 21 years. Usually, they were taken to an institution for the rest of their lives.

His mother, Catherine, would hear none of that. So he spent the first 30 years of his life with his parents, Richard and Catherine, the next 30 rotating among about a dozen siblings and nieces, each for about 3 months at a time.

Among his 14 surviving siblings are a former Buffalo fire commissioner, a former assemblyman and a former deputy county executive. But everyone acknowledged who the true politician was in the family: Joseph Jeremiah Keane.

"He worked a crowd better than any of his politician brothers," said niece Kate Carr, one of 183 nieces, nephews and their children who called him "Uncle Joey."

"His whole life, he was a cause célèbre along Seneca Street," said brother James P. Keane, the former Common Council member and deputy county executive. "People just took to him."

Here's a testament to his popularity in South Buffalo. Ten years ago, following a newspaper story about his gala 50th birthday party, a childhood friend living in Australia sent him a letter addressed to "Joseph Keane, Somewhere in South Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y." The letter reached him.

Within his family, Joey Keane was the peacemaker of the 16 siblings. When they fought as kids, there was Joey in the middle of things, settling everybody down and leaving the participants to walk away with hugs and handshakes.

"He was kind of the glue that kept us together," said brother Cornelius J. "Neil" Keane, the former fire commissioner.

Since his death, South Buffalo has been filled with dozens of Joey Keane stories. Here are a few of them:

Years ago, Joey Keane had just moved from the roomy Orchard Park home of a niece, Pat Allman, to the more modest South Buffalo home of his sister Maureen Sullivan.

"Cup of coffee, Joe?" his sister asked him the first morning.

"What, no cappuccino?" Joey replied.

"You're back in South Buffalo, buddy," his sister answered.

Following The Buffalo News story 10 years ago, then-Mayor Anthony M. Masiello bought Joey Keane a cappuccino maker for his 50th birthday.

Sometime after his father's death, one sibling kidded that their mother could marry widowed Gov. Hugh L. Carey, who had 14 children. Together, they'd have more than two dozen.

Joey Keane apparently remembered that comment when he saw Carey at some South Buffalo function.

"Stay away from my mother," he told Carey, according to another brother, former Assemblyman Richard J. Keane.

Among other things, Joey Keane loved watching soap operas; impersonating everyone from John Wayne to Tom Jones; dressing up in Sabres, Bills or Bisons garb, while watching or listening to their games; dancing at weddings, often trying to snag the first dance with the new bride; needling his "big shot" brothers; watching the old Lawrence Welk TV show; and catching the garter belt at any wedding.

Surviving are seven sisters, Nancy Lafferty, Mary Alice O'Neil, Sally Trevean, Catherine Keane, Connie Smith, Margaret Ray and Maureen Sullivan; seven brothers, Richard J., Thomas J., Michael A., Cornelius J., Daniel J., James P. and Peter C. Another brother, Firefighter William T. Keane, was killed in 1978 while responding to a false alarm.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in St. Teresa Catholic Church, 1974 Seneca St., after prayers at 9 in Thomas H. McCarthy Funeral Home, 1975 Seneca St.

IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, today, in honor of Earth Day, I introduced a resolution that would support the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to recycling.

Every November since 1997, millions of Americans have become better informed about recycling and buying recycled products as a result of events held in honor of America Recycles Day. Last year, events were held in communities in every state. In my home state of Washington, 12 communities are planning events to commemorate this important day in 2007 in cooperation with counties, elementary schools, businesses and local troops.

Recycling creates 1.1 million U.S. jobs, \$236 billion in gross annual sales and \$37 billion in annual payrolls. Recycling also saves energy, prevents air and water pollution, reduces the need for new landfills and combustors, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, reduces the need for extraction of certain natural resources, and can stimulate the development of greener technologies.

Over the past 10 years, many new markets for recycled products have been created. For example, plastic containers can be remanufactured into other plastic containers, fleece, carpet, car parts, strapping, stuffing, bottles, pipe, lawn and garden products, injection molded products, and plastic lumber. Yet, as markets for recycled products have increased, recycling rates for certain recyclable household products, like plastic and aluminum containers, has decreased or stayed the same, and

curbsid pickup programs have decreased in communities.

There remains a significant opportunity to increase recycling in the United States and I believe that the activities of America Recycles Day provide one way to achieve this end. It is time for Congress to support this important day and effort. I urge my colleagues to take up this important resolution and pass this bill before America Recycles Day on November 15th.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT WALTER DINGMAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to Robert Walter Dingman, a decorated veteran of World War II who was wounded in combat 62 years ago today, on April 20, 1945. Private Dingman was seriously wounded as he crossed an open field and laid paralyzed until a heroic medic rescued him under enemy fire.

Bob Dingman had just turned 18 when he was drafted into the Army in 1944. After basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, he was soon aboard a troop ship to Liverpool, England and then on to LeHarve, France, in early 1945. The French rail road took him and his fellow soldiers to Verviers, Belgium, where he was issued an M-1 rifle. He was soon taken across the Rhine River where he was assigned to Comp B of the 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division.

As a young soldier with a strong faith in God, Private Dingman was determined he would not hate his enemy and had occasions to show kindness toward captives, while carrying out his duties. Since those dark days 62 years ago, Bob Dingman has led a successful, active, inspiring and selfless life. After graduating from Houghton College in New York state, he began his career here in Washington as an employee of the U.S. Navy. He later went into the executive recruiting business and formed his own executive recruiting firm in California in 1978. He rose professionally and is recognized as one of the nation's top executive recruiters.

During his recruiting career, he repeatedly went out of his way to assist faith-based organizations in their searches for competent leadership, in addition to his broad array of commercial clients. Over the years he led the search projects for leaders of such organizations as World Vision International, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Young Life, numerous Christian Colleges, and many other church-related organizations. He also gave generously of his time and abilities by serving on the national boards of such organizations as the Salvation Army and Mission Aviation Fellowship and the local boards of Hospice and Whitworth College.

As a disabled veteran of World War II, he was awarded a 50 percent disability in 1951. As one who has experienced the physical and emotional pain of rehabilitation, Mr. Dingman is currently turning his attention to finding ways to help newly disabled veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I ask that the House join me today in recognizing Bob Dingman for a lifetime of service to his country and others, and for his example of determination, hard work and commitment to his faith.

IN HONOR OF JOHN DALLAGER

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John "J.D." Dallager's appointment as President and CEO of the Pike's Peak United Way.

After serving his country for 34 years in the United States Air Force, Mr. Dallager went on to serve the Colorado Springs as the Chairman of the Board of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dallager's admirable sense of duty and clear commitment to the service of others enable me to say with confidence that he will be an excellent addition to the Pike's Peak United Way.

For over 80 years, the Pike's Peak United Way has sought to improve the lives of Coloradans living in El Paso and Teller Counties through numerous family support, emergency food and shelter, and charity grant programs. A strong leader, Mr. Dallager will provide direction to this valuable organization, allowing it to further serve the needs of my constituents. I am profoundly thankful for all that Mr. Dallager has done for Colorado's Fifth Congressional District and our Nation.

COMMENDING EXCEPTIONAL
NORTHWEST INDIANA TEACHERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven exceptional teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding educators by their peers for the 2006–2007 school year. These individuals are: Margaret Hurt, Susan Kucharski, John Nawrocki, Faylene Altomere, Eileen Meier, Amanda Johnsen, and Michelle Strong. These honorees will be presented with the Crystal Bell Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana on May 8, 2007.

Margaret Hurt, from the Tri-Creek School Corporation, has been a superior role model to her students at Lowell High School for 26 years, where she has served as Social Studies Chair for 20 years. Margaret also serves as co-coach for the Lowell Spell Bowl team. She is always willing to give her time to prepare students for the future, mentor new teachers, and promote new projects that will improve her school.

Susan Kucharski has 29 years of experience as a teacher and is this year's recipient from the Lake Central School Corporation. Susan is currently a fourth grade teacher at Protsman Elementary School. She is known for her giving nature and always going the

extra mile. She serves on the PL 221 School Improvement Team and Safety Committee and also plays the piano for annual musicals.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the School Town of Highland is Amanda Johnsen. Amanda is a fourth grade teacher at Warren Elementary School, where she has taught for 9 years. She has given extended time in the K-Kids Program, a partnership with the Kiwanis Club to develop student leadership and community involvement. Amanda serves as the school's Parent Teacher Organization liaison and led the girls' baseball team to a tournament championship.

John Nawrocki, a math teacher at Taft Middle School for 32 years, has been a great asset to the Crown Point Community School Corporation. He has served as Math Chairperson and moderator of the Math Bowl, and he has also served on the NCA/School Improvement Committee and ISTEP Cut Off Committee for the State of Indiana. John always goes to great lengths to make himself available to his students and faculty.

Eileen Meier, this year's recipient from the School Town of Munster, has been teaching for the past 24 years. Her expertise lies with foreign language, having taught German at Munster High School for the past 8 years. Eileen challenges her students to broaden their horizons and go the distance in reaching their goals.

Faylene Altomere is known for her dedication and consistency as a great educator. Faylene, a 43-year veteran of the teaching profession, is this year's recipient from the Hanover School Corporation. Faylene is currently a teacher at Jane Ball Elementary School and has played an active role in the lives of students from three generations of some families.

Michelle Strong is this year's Crystal Bell recipient from the North Newton School Corporation. Michelle is a beloved military veteran and art teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. She has shared her strength, positive nature, and love of art throughout her community and her school.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on being recipients of the 2006–2007 Crystal Bell Award. Their years of hard work have helped to shape the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, and each of these outstanding educators is truly an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE
OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL-
LINOIS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Village of South Chicago Heights, Illinois on their Centennial Celebration. On its founding day, March 7, 1907, 150 citizens of Hannah and Keeney Subdivision voted to incorporate as the Village of South Chicago Heights.

The first permanent settlers in the area, Adam and Phoebe Brown of Ohio, built a home and opened a general store some 74

years earlier at the intersection of Sauk Trail and the old Hubbard Trail. "Brown's Corner" became a busy crossroads, first allegedly for the Underground Railroad, then later for wagons, stagecoaches, railroads, and automobiles.

One year after incorporating, the residents worked together to build the village's first school, the U.S. Grant School. As the village grew so did the budget and city services. The first year's budget was \$3,800, which was met by property taxes and three saloon licenses at \$500 each.

In its early days the village steadily grew as immigrants of Italian, Polish, German and other ancestries moved here to work in nearby factories, railroads, and local businesses. South Chicago Heights is still home to many of these families and businesses.

The village has had only 12 mayors in 100 years, including the Honorable David Owen, who has served as mayor since 1989. Mayor Owen has officially declared South Chicago Heights as a good place to live, to work, and to raise a family; and the Centennial gives all 4,000 citizens a special opportunity to take pride in our history and to celebrate our heritage. On May 7, 2007, during the Founders Day program, the Village will dedicate a new Village Clock to start the next 100 years.

I am proud to represent the Village of South Chicago Heights and I congratulate them on 100 years of service and I look forward to future celebrations.

HONORING GEORGE TORNEY, EX-
ECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PYRAMID
ALTERNATIVES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George Torney, who became the Executive Director of Pyramid Alternatives in the City of Pacifica on August 6, 1976, and has served San Mateo County for 31 years. Under his leadership and guidance, Pyramid expanded its horizons beyond alcohol to recognize addictive personalities as they relate to all substance abuse. Pyramid now frequently collaborates with the San Mateo County Health Department to address links between substance abuse and mental illness.

Although George Torney's work with Pyramid began in Pacifica, the organization itself has since branched out into nine school districts and serves the entire San Mateo County community through seven offices, offering services in five languages. Pyramid has offered a wide range of counseling and education in the fields of: substance abuse, domestic violence, anger, management, first and multiple drinking driver programs, parenting issues and senior adult Services.

Madam Speaker, Pyramid has become an essential partner in the Bridges Program, an intensive alcohol and drug day treatment program for men and women operated by San Mateo County Adult Probation, Superior Court and the County Sheriff. This exceptional program helps non-violent offenders transition back into their families and the community.

Madam Speaker, after three decades of dedicated service, George Torney is retiring and Janeen Smith is assuming the Executive

Director role of Pyramid Alternatives. It is with great respect and deepest appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing George Torney and Pyramid Alternatives.

IN HONOR OF BUDDY LAROSA AS HE RECEIVES THE TREE OF LIFE AWARD

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Buddy LaRosa as he receives the Tree of Life humanitarian award on April 30, 2007 from the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish National Fund has bestowed its highest honor, the Tree of Life award, annually since 1981. Recipients of this prestigious honor are chosen on the basis of outstanding community involvement, professional leadership and humanitarian service. Previous national recipients have included Hank Aaron, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin and Donald Trump.

The Tree of Life award was named to symbolize the Jewish National Fund's efforts to reclaim and develop the land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable land into a land of lush green forests and fields, productive farmlands and varied tourism and recreation facilities.

The Jewish National Fund is honoring Mr. LaRosa because of his outstanding community service, active civic involvement and ongoing dedication to helping those less fortunate.

This talented and generous man is the name behind one of Cincinnati's most recognized and beloved eateries, LaRosa's Restaurant. A lifelong native of Western Hills, Buddy opened his first pizzeria there in 1954 with a couple of partners, limited funds, and his Aunt Dena's recipe. Today, Buddy is known as the "Pizza King" and LaRosa's, with its 15 company-owned restaurants, 45 franchise locations across the region, and more than 1,500 employees, is a household name synonymous with great pizza.

Buddy's commitment to the youth in the Cincinnati area is legendary. Buddy has often said, "To live a full life, be a credit to my family and community, and touch young people so that one day they too may experience the joys I have had." This philosophy, combined with a strong work ethic, is no doubt the recipe to Buddy's success.

Buddy was inspired to give back to the youth of our community after a fire devastated his Western Hills restaurant in 1973. Hundreds of area high school students, through their sports coaches, helped to rebuild his restaurant in a record 40 days. As a way to fulfill his personal goal of giving back to students in the community, Buddy founded the Buddy LaRosa High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1975. The Hall of Fame has seven new inductees each year and honors 12 local high school students for their academic and athletic achievements. Today, this outstanding program is a cornerstone of our community and has touched the lives of countless young people.

Over the years, Buddy has generously given back through his involvement with the Cincinnati Golden Gloves for Youth Program and the Greater Cincinnati Police Athletic League.

Some of his other beneficiaries include various schools and charitable organizations such as Children's Hospital Medical Center, WCET-TV, and the Free Store Foodbank, Inc.

Buddy is a graduate of Roger Bacon High School and earned an associate degree in business technology. He also served his country in the United States Navy from 1948-1952. Buddy has been married to his wife, JoAnn Augustine, for 55 years and they have 4 children and 13 grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Buddy LaRosa on receiving the Tree of Life humanitarian award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FORT STANTON-SNOWY RIVER CAVE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Act. This bill is a companion to legislation introduced by my state's Senior Senator, Mr. DOMENICI. Last year, the Senate passed this legislation but the House was unable to act on it before we recessed. It is my hope by introducing the bill today we can push the process along and get this legislation done this year.

The Fort Stanton Cave is a tremendous national resource, which includes a cave that has calcite flowing all along the cave formations. This truly rare resource deserves our protection. As the Representative of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, I am aware of how amazing cave formations can be and how valuable they are to educate and inspire our children.

This legislation does the following: (1) creates a Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave Conservation Area to protect, secure and conserve the natural and unique features of the Snowy River Cave; (2) instructs the BLM to prepare a map and legal description of the Snowy River Cave, and to develop a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the cave area; (3) authorizes the conservation of the unique features and environs in the cave for scientific, educational and other public uses deemed safe and appropriate under the management plan; (4) authorizes the BLM to work with State and other institutions and to cooperate with Lincoln County to address the historical involvement of the local community; (5) protects the caves from mineral and mining leasing operations.

This cave is a valuable resource that in time will share with us its many wonders, but to do that we must preserve this resource for the future. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting these important protections.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR FLIGHT MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous gen-

erosity of Honor Flight Michigan, Inc. This organization's work to honor our veterans should be commended.

Honor Flight Michigan was founded in Royal Oak, Michigan by David Cameron and his wife Carole. After watching a report about a man in North Carolina who took World War II veterans to see their monument in Washington, DC, the couple was inspired to do the same. Realizing that many veterans lacked the funds or the ability to travel alone, Mr. Cameron made it his goal to take as many World War II veterans as he could to our nation's capital. Working closely with the Royal Oak American Legion Post 253, Honor Flight Michigan has begun its statewide effort to reach that goal.

This week, Honor Flight Michigan will be making its inaugural flight to Washington bringing 60 veterans to see the memorial they have waited 60 years to see. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron plan to take these trips monthly to ensure every veteran living today can see the memorial we have constructed to honor their bravery and sacrifice.

Out of the sixteen million who served in World War II, sadly only three million are alive today. In addition, we are losing them at a rate of twelve hundred a day. It is important that we let those veterans know the appreciation we have for them. Honor Flight Michigan does that, by treating these veterans as the heroes they are.

Today I salute Honor Flight Michigan for their tireless efforts on behalf of one of our nation's greatest assets, our veterans. When I look around this chamber and see the essence of our democracy I can't help but think of those who fought to ensure our freedom, our strength, and our democracy.

IN RECOGNITION OF EUGENE BAK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene Bak for his outstanding efforts and devoted work to Polonia and America, and his tremendous amount of civic work for the benefit of the Polish American Cultural Center.

Gene and his family immigrated to the United States in 1952, after spending a total of seven years in deportation in Siberia as well as Polish refugee camps. He obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Seton Hall University and attended business programs at the University of Michigan, Harvard University and Syracuse University. Gene has spent his entire career in the chemical industry and retired as Board Director of OM Group (OMC) in 1999.

In 1982, Gene's affection for his beloved homeland led him to help the AmeriCares Foundation raise funds to ship medicine and medical supplies to the people of Poland. He has since been a vital asset to efforts to expanding Polish culture in the Cleveland area, and as cofounder and Executive Director of the Polish American Cultural Center he has refurbished facilities to house distinguished Polish speakers, artists, shows and displays. Under his leadership, the Polish Heritage Museum opened as part of the Cultural Center to celebrate Polish history, as well as the history of Polish Americans.

Gene serves on a number of boards, such as the Advisory Board of Marymount Medical Center. Moreover his concern for people, both here and abroad, is impressive and admirable. As part of his titanic work he is helping the people in Poland to raise funds for the Laski Institute for the Blind as well as the Polish Children's Heartline Foundation, and he has significantly contributed to the cooperation between Poland and the United States.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Eugene Bak for using his unique skills and numerous talents in service to the people of Polonia and Northeast Ohio. May his tireless dedication and his achievements continue to inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING MARK EVERSON

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mark Everson for his dedication to public service and to congratulate him on his new position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross. Everson's commitment to this country as the Internal Revenue Service Commissioner is an example for everyone in public service.

Mark Everson has served as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) since 2003, and we will certainly miss him when he officially leaves to lead the American Red Cross on May 29th. His dedication to making sure that taxpayers' needs were heard, and his commitment to expanding access to and knowledge of the Earned Income Tax Credit deserve our congratulations.

Prior to his confirmation as IRS Commissioner, Everson has worked in several other high-profile positions in the public and private sectors. During the Reagan Administration, he worked tirelessly in various positions at the U.S. information agency and the Department of Justice, and he also served at the Office of Management and Budget for the current Administration.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Mark Everson a friend, and I thank him for his fine work at the IRS over the last four years. It has been an honor to work with him throughout the years. He is a true public servant who is committed to the highest level of integrity, and the American Red Cross will be well served by his dedication and leadership.

RECOGNIZING FRAN AMIR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fran Amir, a constituent from Plainsboro, to honor her on the occasion of her tenth anniversary as Principal of the Religious School at The Jewish Center of Princeton.

Ms. Amir grew up in New York City and has been in the field of education and youth programming most of her life. A graduate of Brooklyn College, Ms. Amir taught social stud-

ies in the New York school system for many years. Ms. Amir did graduate work at Wayne State University in Jewish Studies, and has taught in Hebrew Schools in New York, West Bloomfield, Michigan, Toronto, and The Jewish Center of Princeton. She has directed teen programs both in summer camps and during the school year, and has served as the Youth and Family Programs Co-chair at the Jewish Center for five years.

Ms. Amir's students receive far more than just the basics of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah preparation in her religious school curriculum. When becoming Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah, a young person is expected to assume the moral and ethical responsibilities of an adult, in particular, service to the community, or "mitzvot." Ms. Amir provides the best possible role model of one who performs mitzvot. Along with her service to the local Jewish community, for example, she traveled with a group of her tenth graders to Biloxi to help with clean-up of the local synagogue, Beth Israel, after Hurricane Katrina. The students carefully removed and wrapped memorial plaques from the wall, ensuring their safe storage until a new temple could be built. Not only did the students help in a practical way, but also helped maintain the Jewish tradition of reverence for the synagogue and its trappings.

The highest responsibility in the Jewish faith is to learn and teach the Torah. Through religious classes, youth programs, and by example, Ms. Amir exemplifies someone who celebrates her faith and tradition through her daily life. She shares her passion with her family and friends, and touches the lives of countless students, their families, and the congregation.

I am proud to recognize Fran Amir for all that she has given to the community on the occasion of her tenth anniversary as Principal of the Religious School of The Jewish Center of Princeton.

COMMENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today in strong support of House Resolution 300, which commends the significant achievements of the Rutgers University Women's Basketball team.

I wholeheartedly join the citizens of our Nation, the people of New Jersey and my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives in congratulating the team for a job well done.

I was not able to formally vote for this important measure that I proudly cosponsored yesterday, because I was in Bound Brook, New Jersey working with local, State and federal officials mapping out a plan to respond to the significant destruction many 7th Congressional District Communities sustained as a result of the massive Nor-easter weekend storm. Had I been present, I would have wholeheartedly voted Yes.

By advancing to the Final Four of the women's National Collegiate Athletic Association championship—the Rutgers University Scarlet

Knight basketball team achieved a tremendous success. Each and every member of the team should be proud of their excellent season and their significant accomplishment. The team's 27–9 season record is testament to their hard work and dedication.

I am honored and proud to join our Nation and the citizens of New Jersey in commending the team and their coach C. Vivian Stringer for this accomplishment. Each and every member of the team are true heroes and provide a real inspiration to young people across the Nation.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 1591, U.S. TROOP READINESS,
VETERANS' HEALTH AND IRAQ
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I could not support this motion to instruct House conferees on the Defense Supplemental appropriations bill, for two reasons: First, I do not support the idea of rigidly insisting on the parts of the House-passed bill that the motion says the conferees should not change. Second, I believe the funding of our troops and the future of our involvement in Iraq are too important and too serious to be used for cheap partisan tricks.

My vote was based on my appraisal of the merits of the motion, without regard to how others may have decided to vote. In other words, unlike the gentleman from California who offered it, I took the motion seriously—and, like its author, I opposed it.

Earlier, when the House considered the Defense Supplemental bill itself, I voted for the bill to ensure that America's soldiers get the equipment and resources they need and the top-quality health care they may require when they come home.

My vote for the bill was not a vote to support the Bush Administration's policy in Iraq. We are 4 years into a war the Bush Administration assured us would be short and decisive. The Administration's misjudgments, lack of planning and poor leadership have made a bad situation worse—and the tactic of increasing troops for a temporary "surge" is no substitute for what is needed, namely, a strategy for containing civil war and a wider regional war.

While I am convinced that it was a strategic mistake to go to war in Iraq in the way that the Bush Administration did, we are still deeply engaged there—and while our troops are in the field, we must provide them what they need. Beyond supplying our soldiers, however, we must extricate them from what objective defense experts have characterized as an emerging civil war.

Disengaging from that civil war is the purpose of the provisions in the House-passed bill designed to hold the president accountable to the benchmarks set by his own administration and the Iraqi government—including enactment of a hydro-carbon law; conducting of provincial and local elections; reform of current laws governing the de-Baathification process; amendment of the Constitution of Iraq; and allocation of Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects.

I strongly support that approach because I am convinced that holding the president and the Iraqi government accountable for achieving these benchmarks will provide us with the leverage necessary to pressure the Iraqi government to forge the political solution we all know is required. In fact, Defense Secretary Gates has acknowledged that the House-passed a bill has been helpful in this approach by showing the Iraqis that American patience is limited.

As I said when the House debated the bill, however, I do not believe it was a good idea to include a date certain for withdrawing U.S. combat troops from Iraq. As I said then, I do not consider this provision to be wise and if it had been up to me, it would not have been included in the bill. I remain convinced that we should steer clear of arbitrary public deadlines for military actions and focus instead on realistic diplomatic and political goals. Our military needs flexibility to be able to link movements of U.S. troops to the realities of the situation on the ground, and successful diplomacy requires such flexibility as well.

I voted for the bill despite my reservations about the withdrawal language because the deadline—August of 2008—is far enough away that it can be revisited, and while I did not like its inclusion, I do not believe in letting the perfect be the enemy of the good.

But since it would have been better if it had not been included in the first place, I could not vote to instruct the conferees to insist on including it in the conference report.

FEDERAL CONTRACTOR
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, each year, we lose billions of dollars in tax revenue because of fraud and payment delays.

I was particularly angered when I read a March 2006 report issued by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that found tax debts totaling \$1.4 billion were owed to the federal government by over 3,800 GSA contractors. Shockingly, these GSA contractors represented approximately 10 percent of all GSA contractors during Fiscal Year 2004 and the first 9 months of Fiscal Year 2005.

This is simply unacceptable. It is my aim to increase the scrutiny on government contractors who owe millions in unpaid taxes even as they pad their bottom lines with taxpayer dollars.

Today, I am introducing a bill that will up the ante on bad actors who cheat our government of tax revenue and, in the process, gain an unfair advantage over businesses that play by the rules.

This legislation, the Federal Contractor Accountability Act of 2007, will require prospective contractors to certify that they are not delinquent in their federal tax payments. No prospective contractor will be awarded a contract with a federal agency unless the prospective contractor certifies in writing to the agency making the award or extension, or issuing the

order, that the contractor owes no Federal tax debt.

To certify, the prospective contractor must acknowledge that within a 3-year period, they have not been convicted or had a civil judgment rendered against them for violating any tax laws, failing to pay any tax, or has been notified of any delinquent taxes for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

Additionally, to certify, the prospective contractor must acknowledge that they have not received a notice of a tax lien filed against them for which the liability remains unsatisfied or the lien has not been released.

It is that simple. It is not too much to ask that a private entity that wishes to do business with the federal government certify that they pay their taxes in good faith.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Contractor Accountability Act of 2007 is a practical and efficient way to ensure that we close the ever-widening tax gap. This legislation protects good faith contractors who are playing by the rules. These contractors should not have to unfairly compete against tax cheats for federal contracts.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA BORDER
SECURITY IS UNACCEPTABLE

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, the insufficient border security in my district in southern Arizona is unacceptable. Our inspection infrastructure is deficient, and this is the critical reason why the Tucson Sector has more drugs seized and illegal immigrants apprehended than any other sector bordering Mexico.

The U.S. Border Patrol agents in southern Arizona seize an average of 2,670 pounds of drugs and apprehend 2,000 illegal immigrants every day. We must end this crisis and secure the border now.

Currently, we have no idea how much contraband or how many people are actually coming across. However, what we do know is that Tucson has become the largest land corridor in the country for marijuana and the most heavily used route in the Nation for illegal immigrants.

While all of Arizona requires additional border security measures, some communities are affected more than others. The current makeshift checkpoint on I-19 just north of Tubac creates an intolerable situation for nearby residents. Human and drug smugglers can easily circumvent or penetrate it, and there has been a recent increase in violence and crime. Residents, tourists and business people have also been inconvenienced by the checkpoint in Tubac because it has led to a massive increase in traffic.

A Federal law that prohibited Arizona's development of a permanent checkpoint in southern Arizona was rejected by the House of Representatives last year. However, at my request U.S. Border Patrol Chief David Aguilar agreed that no permanent checkpoint will be planned for the Tucson sector without signifi-

cant and direct community involvement. Southern Arizonans must work with our law enforcement agencies to create a plan for securing our borders and reducing the violence against citizens and immigrants.

Chief Aguilar, Tucson Sector Chief Patrol Agent Robert Gilbert, and I have agreed to form a working group of residents along the I-19 Corridor to collaboratively decide what future security measures need to look like.

A permanent checkpoint on I-19 can only be successful in reducing the total number of drugs and undocumented individuals if several additional measures are taken. These measures include active community involvement in the planning for the checkpoint and an overall network of border security technology that includes surveillance cameras, an array of sensors and vehicle x-ray technology similar to what exists at our ports of entry.

I believe strongly that decisions are best made at the local level. The recent change in Federal law provides citizens and law enforcement officials an opportunity to work collaboratively to secure our border, protect our communities, and foster a secure and vibrant economy.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1495, WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. For the 11th Congressional District that I represent as well as for all of Illinois, passage of this legislation is of utmost importance. WRDA contains instructions for the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out studies and projects within my district at LaSalle and at Ballard's Island in the Illinois River.

The City of LaSalle, IL, has taken an aggressive approach to promoting itself as a historical tourism destination as a way to compensate for the loss of manufacturing. The highpoint of this project is the Port of LaSalle and the Illinois & Michigan Canal. The Illinois & Michigan Canal was integral to the success of Chicago as a transportation hub back in the 19th century as it connected Chicago to the Illinois River. While it fell into disuse and disrepair, the Canal Corridor Association and the City of LaSalle have remade a stretch at the Lock 14 site in LaSalle. A replica canal boat is planned to be constructed and act as a tourist attraction and also a unique venue that can be rented for private functions to bring further revenue to the community.

However, further contaminate testing for cadmium and zinc needs to be completed so that dredging may take place in order to create a long and deep channel for the canal boat to be successfully operated. In passing this bill today, we will be giving the Army Corps of Engineers the authority to carry out the additional testing and the possible dredging that may be needed so that this project can come to fruition and this national treasure can be restored to its original glory.

Another project that is contained in H.R. 1495 is the further opening of the Ballard's Island Channel. The Army Corps completed its last dredging and stone removal at the Ballard's Island site in October 2003 with the intent to study the effects and ramifications. A significant time having passed, it may be time for the Corps to continue with opening up this channel which the Corps closed almost 60 years ago. Cutting through the very large riparian bar which has built up over 60 years and which now blocks the original channel may be a means to this goal. Doing so will divert water flowing into the channel as the result of the Corps reopening.

Both the Illinois & Michigan Canal and the Ballard's Island Channel projects aid the surrounding communities both in environmental restoration and economic revitalization. I look forward to the successful completion of these projects and the important economic benefits these communities will see as a result.

The WRDA legislation not only includes provisions that will assist specific communities in my district but also contains a mandate to update the lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. This project will replace seven key 600-foot navigation locks with seven new 1,200-foot locks. Improvements to the inland water transportation system are long past due. Many structures were built over 60 years ago, when barge tows were less than 600 feet long. Today's barge tows are nearly 1,200 feet long, creating vast backlogs at many locks, and slowing the speed with which Illinois products can be shipped abroad. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, construction of the 7 locks will provide at least 3,000–6,000 jobs per year for the construction period, an estimated 12–20 years.

Farmers in Illinois and my district are dependent on the riverways to ship their products to international markets. Passage of H.R. 1495 will mean shorter shipping times, resulting in decreased costs and increased profit. I am pleased that we are finally joining in a bipartisan manner to assist American farmers in competing on the global level.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, provides a building block for many communities not only in my district but in every state and region in our country.

In closing, I want to commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for producing a good bipartisan bill again and I am hopeful that this year we can finally get this bill to the President for his signature.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING
THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE VILLAGE OF GENESEO

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and delight that I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Village of Geneseo on its 175th Anniversary.

From its lush and beautiful landscape to its historical and picturesque architecture, from its tradition of excellent education and thriving agriculture to its wonderful and generous people,

the Village of Geneseo has much to celebrate on its 175th anniversary.

Located in the pleasant Genesee Valley in Livingston County, Geneseo has from the very beginning charmed onlookers and visitors with its natural beauty and landscapes. Centuries ago, Seneca Indians discovered a peaceful, rolling valley near a river that was bordered between the Finger Lakes to the east and waterfalls, which would become Letchworth State Park, to the west. They named the land *jo-nis-hi-yuh*, meaning beautiful valley, which would come to be spelled Geneseo. Thus Geneseo's very name captures its beautiful landscape of hills, grand oak trees, waterways and green fields that continue to captivate.

In 1790, two brothers, James and William Wadsworth purchased the "beautiful valley" from the Senecas, and Geneseo was founded. They built homes on both ends of Main Street, many of which still stand today. It was the beginning of what today is one of the most scenic and quaint Main Streets in America. Only one of 24 communities in the country to have its historic district recognized as having national significance, Geneseo's Main Street Historic District reflects the beauty of the area's landscape with unique and delightful architecture nestled in a picturesque, small-town community.

In 1832, the settlement was chartered and would from then on known as the "Village of Geneseo." This important moment marked the official formation of local government and village boundaries, which now mark their 175th year. Later, another important charter would be enacted when in 1897 the New York State Legislature chartered the Wadsworth Normal School at Geneseo, a school that would become SUNY Geneseo. Today, with a reputation as one of the nation's best public liberal arts schools, SUNY Geneseo is an integral part of the community, educating and preparing thousands of young people through its tremendous programs and resources.

Beyond its landscape, history, architecture, and educational tradition, possibly nothing is as inseparable from Geneseo as farming and agriculture. More than just a vital industry that helps feed our nation, farming in Geneseo is a way of life that has shaped the region and sustained its economy. Combined with Geneseo's academic, architectural and natural jewels, this tradition of farms and fields create a dynamic mix that makes the village truly unique.

Finally, Geneseo's most tremendous resource and vital characteristic is its wonderful people. In Geneseo, you find generous, down-to-earth, friendly people who are willing to lend a hand and always wish you well. More than anything to celebrate on this 175th anniversary is the good-hearted and gracious people of Geneseo.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of its history, its natural beauty, its charming architecture, its educational excellence, its agricultural tradition and its wonderful residents, I ask that this honorable body join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Village of Geneseo.

REMEMBERING CAITLIN
HAMMAREN

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 16, 2007, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute was struck by one of the most heinous acts of violence our Nation has ever witnessed. This sense of loss has resonated throughout our country and around the world. It has affected the entire Virginia Tech community and led to an outpouring of sympathy and support from all Americans. It has touched families across the Nation, especially those in my home district in the Hudson Valley, where we lost an outstanding young woman, Caitlin Hammaren.

Caitlin was a young person from Westtown, New York, who graduated from Minisink Valley High School in 2005. She was the section leader in the high school chorus, loved to ride horses, and was kind and generous to all who knew her. As a Resident Assistant in her dormitory at Virginia Tech, she looked over and protected her fellow students and guided them through their daily experiences as young people just learning how to become independent adults. Caitlin will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the campus community that she was such an important and cherished part of. I know all of my colleagues join me on this day of mourning in sending our thoughts and prayers to Caitlin's family and friends.

IN CELEBRATION OF HARRY
DAVIDIAN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Mr. DEVIN NUNES, and rise today to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mr. Harry Davidian, a wonderful husband, father, and community member.

Harry has an interesting life story. He was born on April 23, 1927 to Agavnie and Giragos Davidian. As the son of immigrants of Armenia, Harry looked out for his siblings, John and Hozanna. All three children attended Dinuba High School in Dinuba, CA. After high school, Harry served in the United States Army as a medic for 2 years and in 1948 received an honorable discharge.

In 1948, Harry met and married Laura Balakian. Throughout the years Laura has remained by Harry's side as his soul mate, confidant, and life partner. Together they had three beautiful daughters: Janice, Phyllis, and Rebecca.

As a life long entrepreneur, Harry furthered his interest in farming and created a partnership with George Zarouian, which became known as Zee & Dee. They became the largest shippers of Vine Ripe Tomatoes in the Nation. After much success they joined the Four-some Development Company in Monterey, with partners Ted Balestreri and Bert Cutino. The ultimate American dream was realized when they developed the Historic Cannery Row.

Family, friends, and travel are the great joys of Harry's life. He has been a philanthropist for various organization and communities, such as St. Mary Annenian Church in Yettem. Harry takes pride in being a strong community leader and godfather to Sharon, Karon, Aron, Michael, Debra, and Kevin. Throughout the many roads he has traveled here and abroad we thank him for the many lives he has touched along the way. It is for these reasons that we join Harry Davidian's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 80th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 293, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week. This bill recognizes the beneficial effects of volunteerism in our Nation, and thanks the millions of individuals who have generously donated their time for charitable efforts.

Volunteerism is a hallmark of a civil and compassionate society, and since 1974, National Volunteer Week has consistently encouraged and supported the charitable and selfless contributions of America's volunteers. From the men and women feeding the hungry at the Chicago Food Depository to the volunteers that master information about Chicago's museums and cultural institutions, these individuals deserve our thanks for all of their hard work.

Last year alone, over 61 million Americans offered their time and effort to volunteer in a myriad of ways. These individuals recognized the vital importance of lending a helping hand to beneficent causes and donated their time and efforts in order to make a difference in their communities.

The striking importance of volunteerism was highlighted in the recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast. The communal effort extended after these disasters exemplified the American spirit of fellowship and altruism, and provided the crucial support necessary to begin rebuilding homes and business in this battered region.

National Volunteer Week promotes these selfless acts and raises awareness of the need for personal involvement within America's communities. For this reason I celebrate and support this institution.

Madam Speaker, as we observe National Volunteer Week, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for all of the efforts of our Nation's volunteers. Their work reflects the gracious and humanitarian character of the American Nation, and provides countless hours of service to valuable community organizations. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H. Res. 293, in order to recognize the volunteers of America and National Volunteer Week.

HONORING SHULAMIT HOFFMANN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shulamit Hoffman, a remarkable woman who has enriched my district as the founder and artistic director of Viva la Musica!, a 70-voice community choir. Since its inception in December 2001, this Bay Area based choir has performed a major work from the choral-orchestral repertoire each season, as well as traditional and multi-cultural choral selections. The choir has performed throughout the country and undertook its first European tour in December 2006 in illustrious venues in Vienna and Salzburg.

Ms. Hoffmann has held a litany of prestigious posts, most recently she was appointed as the conductor of Los Altos United Methodist Chancel Choir in 2002. In addition to singing regularly for Sunday services, LAUMC Choir has performed several major works in

concert and has undertaken two tours to the 2004 Kathaumixw in Canada, the 2005 Vermont International Choral Festival and, in 2006, an Alaskan singing cruise with Sir David Willcocks and Duaine Wolf.

As a music educator, Ms. Hoffmann has served as an adjunct faculty member of the College of San Mateo since 2002. She has been a member of the music faculties of the University of Notre Dame de Namur University in California, Idaho State University, Brigham Young University Extension in Idaho and University of Cape Town and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Several of her students are pursuing careers in music. Ms. Hoffmann holds a Master of Arts in Conducting and a Master of Music in Piano Performance. She has earned Licentiate Diplomas in Music from the University of South Africa and from the Royal Schools of Music in London.

She has served as president of branches of the Music Teachers' Association of California and of the National Federation of Music Clubs and she is a frequently invited competition judge and guest clinician.

Madam Speaker, the concerts Shulamit Hoffmann presents are generally sold out and appreciative audience members are enthralled with the musical quality of Viva la Musica! President and Mrs. John Oblak, of Notre Dame de Namur University, praised the excellence of the concerts when they were quoted as saying, "Viva performances exceed all expectations of choral music—they are creative, professional, stimulating and magical—and an absolute treat. We enjoy them personally and we are very proud to introduce friends of the University to this outstanding group."

Ms. Hoffmann's performances—as pianist and conductor—span a broad repertoire from Mozart to multi-cultural music, from the Renaissance to Prepared Piano. A particular interest of Ms. Hoffmann's is multi-media presentations of art, music and poetry. She is known for the skill, authority, imagination, daring, dazzle, and that dash of irresistible playfulness she brings to her musical endeavors. In her hands the conductor's baton becomes a magic wand, coaxing, coaching, and demanding the best of singers and orchestra alike.